

Editorials

.... WITH A PURPOSE

THE INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER

618-20 INDIANA AVE. Lincoln 7574, 7575
 GEORGE P. STEWART MARCUS C. STEWART
 Founder and Editor—1896-1924 Editor

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JOB-TRAINING COURSES IN CITY HIGH SCHOOLS

The facilities afforded by Attucks High School for the training of youths in the manual arts or skilled trades are commendable. However, the demands upon the present facilities swamp the capacity of the industrial arts department, it has been reported widely. Again there is an immediate need for other facilities to train youths in trades to meet the demands of industrial organizations busy in the war effort.

The war effort, we are told, needs the full expression of the abilities and the widest contribution of resources of all citizens of this community or the nation. Individuals in this community as elsewhere must be trained to fill places in industry. Worthy Negro youths and adults alike are now awaiting the opportunities for training to meet the demands for workers in skilled trades.

Numerous instances are reported of youths and adults alike desirous of qualifying for particular trades. The training facilities as offered by the city educational board, are not available at Attucks High School. It is most unlikely that new facilities for training in other trades will be available at Attucks High School any time soon. The matter of shop quarters and other considerations, including the reluctance of the school board to respond to the issue are involved.

However, in behalf of an all-out war effort, the training facilities of the Emmerich Manual and Arsenal Technical High Schools should be made available to all youths and adults alike of the city. These schools offer a wide scope of facilities, more trade training programs, and are generally ahead of other schools of this city and many other cities in plans or programs of manual arts training.

Individuals sponsoring the present Citizens' School Committee Ticket seeking election to the school board in November or persons on the Citizens' School Committee Ticket have been solicited on the matter of improving the manual arts training program at Attucks High School. No favorable commitments have been made. The matter should be of great importance to Negro citizens for future time.

The Independent School Committee Ticket or persons on this ticket are reported as favoring some remedy for the condition. The present school board might make a constructive and commendable contribution to the war effort, by opening the job training courses or departments of Arsenal Technical, and Emmerich Manual High Schools to all aspiring youths of the city.

THE SPIRIT OF THE BOND RALLY CARRIES OVER

People in all walks of life, Negro and white citizens, business and industrial leaders, professional people and citizens generally are still enthused over the recent Bond Rally. Scores of citizens have seen fit to make some highly appreciable comment on the bond sales drive. This affords the numerous sponsors of the Bond Rally a deserved inclination to pride in their work. Better still for them to boast, people are now buying bonds or making inquiries on the likelihood of their purchase of bonds being credited to the Bond Rally.

All agree the Bond Rally has not been equalled in gathering the responses of the people. Some entertain ideas of having produced greater results under given conditions and some of the really optimistic entertain ideas of holding another bond sales drive in the very near future. This idea is not agreeable, nor will it bear the sanction of the U. S. agencies directing the bond sales program. However, the purpose of the recent drive was to sell bonds, and more bonds will be and must be sold each day of the week, month, and year.

It now appears, colored citizens of this community are fully imbued with the idea, that it is every man's duty or obligation to buy bonds to pay the cost of the war. In the offices of THE RECORDER where the affairs of the War Bond Committee are being concluded after three months' work, this observation holds fully. In fact the inquiries on bond purchases have been such, that in keeping with the suggestion of the local offices of the U. S. War Bond Sales Promotion Agency THE RECORDER will most likely sponsor a bond sales agency. The idea is entertained in keeping with civic or patriotic fervor of our constituents, as well as our own civic obligation.

Negro citizens, in contact with leaders and general business or industrial people, are saying "The spirit of the Bond Rally has promoted something new in the trends of civic or business and patriotic fellowship." Scores of individuals have made such observations. Many have taken time out to report at the offices of THE RECORDER on their recent experiences or observations.

Finally, we of THE RECORDER are fully appreciative of all constructive results that may accrue out of the success of the Bond Rally. The idea of the war bond sales drive in its origin germinated in the offices of THE RECORDER. However, the success of the idea, a bond selling drive, must be credited to the citizens of our city. The citizens bought bonds and the citizens of the community aware of this duty or obligation will buy more bonds in the future.

The various doctrines of hate and intolerance abiding among us are more dangerous to "the ship of state" than termites are to a dilapidated building of wood.

Self-discipline is a respect of liberty and freedom under which good citizens neither impose nor trespass upon the rights of others.

The person who thinks he has never acted the part of a fool, fools no one but himself.

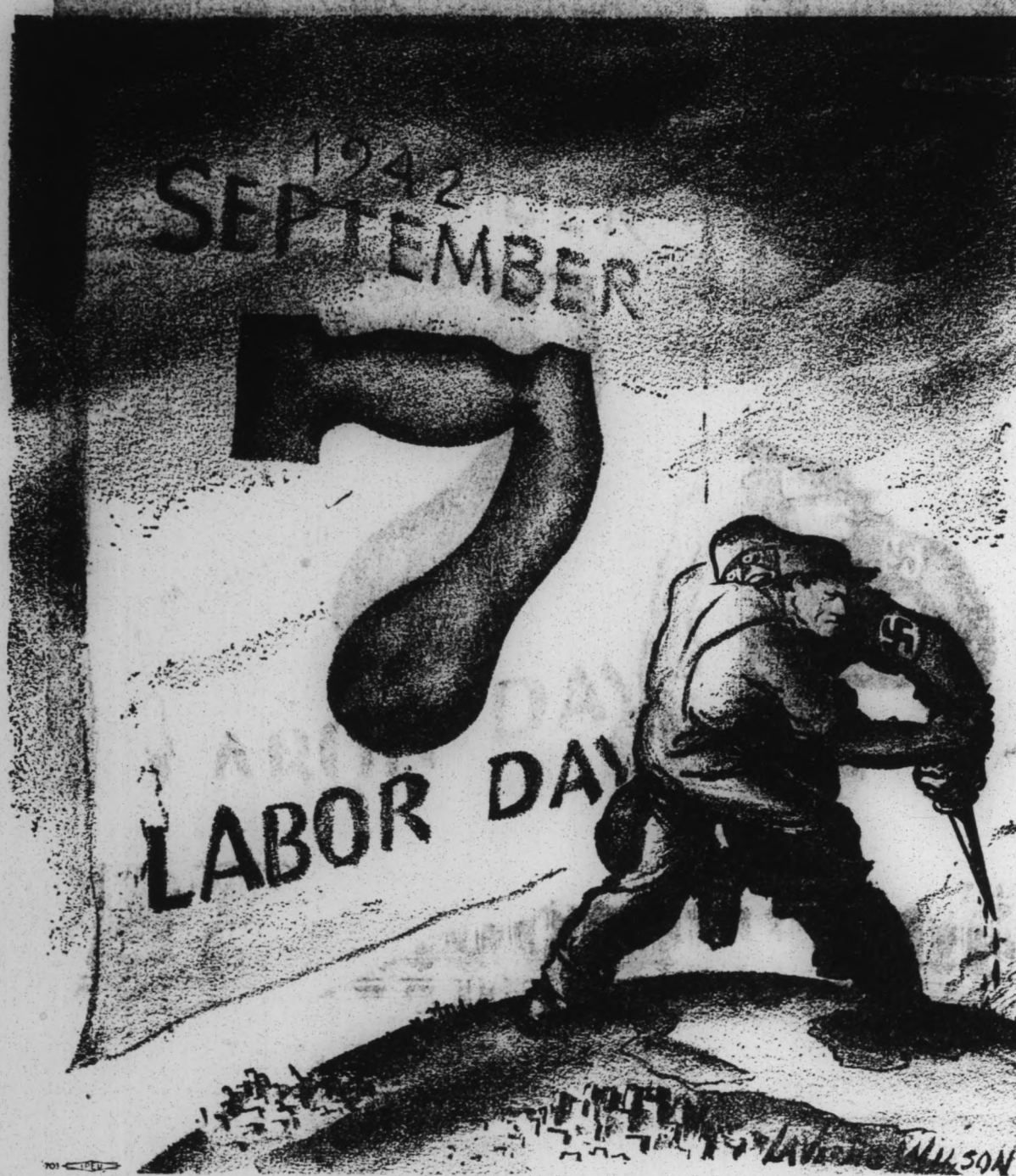
Unity of purpose does not necessarily indicate that commendable results are to be achieved.

A democracy may commit suicide, by suffering a restraint on the ideals or hopes of a category of its citizens.

The EDITORIAL Page

Life Is The Shapeless Clay From Which Every Man Molds His Own Image—Hibbitt.

The Negro and Labor Day



BY A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

This Labor Day finds the workers of the world, Negro and white, Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, and practically every country in the world engaged in a global war. Some of these workers are deluded by the mythological totalitarian promises, generalities and ideologies of Hitler's Nazism, Hirohito's Militarism, and Mussolini's Fascism. Workers in the United Nations are fighting under the aegis of the democratic political system. In the Third Reich, Italy and Japan where Fascism prevails, there is no free trade union movement. Labor organizations have been crushed and their leaders thrown into concentration camps and their funds confiscated. In the democratic countries such as England, America, Australia and Canada workers are still free to build trade unions for the protection and advancement of their living standards and the defense of their civil and political liberties.

Because of these well established differences between the nature and aims of the Axis powers and the United Nations, Negroes who are a minority group and represent in the main workers who must earn their living by selling their labor power in the market from day to day, have no choice save to throw their lot with the United Nations and fight to abolish the tyranny of our Axis enemies.

But while it is imperative for the Negroes to join whole heartedly in the all-out struggle of the United Nations to wipe out the evil and menace of the Axis force in Europe, and Asia, they also have the moral obligation to fight relentlessly to eliminate Hitlerism in America in the form of discrimination and segregation in the Army, Navy, U. S. Marine, Coast Guard, defense industry and the Government. Any Negro is guilty of treason to his race who fails to do his bit to bury jim-crow in America now.

Native Son ... Social Document of America's Stepchildren

(Continued From Last Week)

Then the head turned slightly ears, faint, but distinct, like a sharp bright point lingering on the front of the eyes when a light has gone out suddenly and darkness is everywhere—so the click of the gun handle against the man's head stayed on his ears. He had not moved from his tracks; his right hand was still extended upward, in mid-air; he lowered it, looking at the man, the sound of the metal against bone fading in his ears like a dying whisper.

The sound of the siren had stopped at some time which he did not remember; then it started again, and in the interval in which he had not heard it seemed to hold for him some precious hidden danger, as though for a dread moment he had gone to sleep at his post with an enemy near. He looked through the whirling spokes of light and saw a trap door open upon the roof to his left. He stood rigid, holding the gun, watching, waiting. If only the man did not see him when he came up! head came into view; a white man climbed out of the trap door and stood in the snow. He flinched; someone was crawling in the left below him. Would he be trapped? A voice, a little afraid, called from the open hole through which the man whom he had struck had climbed.

"Jerry!"

The voice sounded clearly in spite of the siren and the clang of the fire wagons.

The voice was a little louder now. It was the man's partner, Bigger looked back to the roof to his left; the man was still standing there, flashing a light around. If that man would only leave! He had to get away from this trap door here. If that man came up to see about his partner and found him sprawled in the snow he would be before he got a chance to get away. He squeezed against the

chimney, looking at the man on the roof to his left, holding his breath. The man turned, walked toward the trapdoor and climbed through. He waited to hear the door shut; it did. Now, that roof was clear! He breathed a silent prayer.

With gun in hand, Bigger crept across the roof. He came to a small mound of brick, where the upputting ridge of the building's flat top joined that of the other. He paused and looked back. The hole was still empty. If he tried to climb over, would the man come out of the hole just in time to see him? He had to take the chance. He grabbed the ledge, hoisted himself upon it, and lay flat for a moment on the ice, then slid to the other side, rolling over. He felt snow in his face and eyes; his chest heaved. He crawled to another chimney and waited; it was so cold that he had a wild wish to merge into the icy bricks of the chimney and have it all over. He heard the voice again, this time loud, insistent:

"Jerry!"

He looked out from behind the chimney. The hole was still empty. But the next time the voice came he knew that the man was coming out, for he could feel the tremor of the voice, as though it were next to him.

"Jerry!"

Then he saw the man's face come through; it was stuck like a piece of white pasteboard above the top of the hole and when the man's voice sounded again Bigger knew that he had seen his partner in the snow.

"Jerry! SAY!"

Bigger lifted his gun and waited. "Jerry..."

The man came out of the hole and stood over his partner, then scrambled in again, screaming: "Say! Say!"

Cruising



WITH LEE J. MARTIN

1. Draft Board Creates Confusion.
2. Mr. Peterson and Churches.
3. Mr. Willkie Travels Again.

Are draft boards creating disunity? That is the question uppermost in the minds of mothers and fathers whose sons are being called to the service of their country.

They ask if the boards are fair, why take my son, registered in 1942, while other sons registered in 1941, and in Class 1A have never been called?—then, too—there is a young man, who didn't finish grade or high school, 1941, Class 1A, yet uncalled. There is another young man paying his way through—taking war essential courses—1942 registrant—called within ten days after classification. These ask—are they trying to take all the best young men of the nation and leave those here that are less likely to benefit the country?

Such cases do exist, these parents know that they do, they see with their own eyes the undeniable facts—even though their conclusions are not always right—but sufficient evidence exists, that radicals can use for the purpose of creating disunity and laxity in the support of war.

Draft board of human beings—human beings differ—draft boards differ—and the honest difference of boards should not be condemned—but where there are two sons from different families, both in Class 1A, under the same board—and these cases are treated differently there is need for at least an explanation. However, the fault lies in the draft law not making the rules of draft specific enough and in some instances, a board's quota may be too high in comparison to the physically fit available, which necessitates each board dipping into the 1942 class sooner than most parents expected, basing their judgment of the calling of previous classes. These and other legitimate circumstances may make a decision of a board seem unfair, when it's not their fault. We ask all parents to co-operate with boards—and all boards to make sure that all evidence of seeming unfairness be eliminated—your son, my son—or any other's son cannot feel that they are fighting a war for justice if deep down in their hearts they feel that they have been dealt with unfairly by their own draft boards. Justice, like charity, begins at home.

Now—Mr. Peterson:
 Dear Sir:
 There are infinite possibilities in the way girls view their churches today.

There is more to be had from the freedom and the openness that prevails in a church that has a girls' softball team that wears shorts and sweaters.

There are those who wonder why Mr. Wendell Willkie travels so much in the war zones. It is my opinion that Mr. Willkie was first to know the world at first hand, second Mr. Willkie has realized that knowing the world makes a man free of narrowness and bigotry. He sees that other people live and do things, as Americans do—and perhaps just as well. He is made to realize that great as America is—it is not the only people on the beach—and could not stand with the world against it. That's why Mr. Willkie travels—it makes him a 100 per cent human being.

JOE HEPBURN: "Rommel retreats—here's hoping the Allies can keep Rommel in the rumble seat."

Chicago, Illinois.

That is progress from the Puritanism of the past, and the mediocrity that caused dozens to leave the church in other days. The increased interest in church, because it represents the finer ways of living, can have a ball team of girls who need not think that playing ball is a waste of time or something that requires a taven to back it.

So the people change their ideas with each new generation. Even the brightest young man gets to be dull and trivial at times. When the churches show their intention of using every possible way of keeping young people interested in them, they are at last using the methods of clever men to maintain goodness in the world.

So when we find a colored church with a girls' softball team we know that we are keeping in step with the fast pace of these swift times.

We know that we are keeping step with the way the white churches are doing their stuff to keep the young interested in religion.

This is a far cry from the old stiff-necked hard-dog doctrine and rigid churches that dealt out sin and condemnation in the past years. Religion has grown lighter in touch anyway though the terrible problems it tries to answer are ever present; for they created the need for religion.

Yours truly,

—ED. PETERSON.

Chicago, Illinois.

There are those who wonder why Mr. Wendell Willkie travels so much in the war zones. It is my opinion that Mr. Willkie was first to know the world at first hand, second Mr. Willkie has realized that knowing the world makes a man free of narrowness and bigotry. He sees that other people live and do things, as Americans do—and perhaps just as well. He is made to realize that great as America is—it is not the only people on the beach—and could not stand with the world against it. That's why Mr. Willkie travels—it makes him a 100 per cent human being.

JOE HEPBURN: "Rommel retreats—here's hoping the Allies can keep Rommel in the rumble seat."

Chicago, Illinois.

Public Sentiment

In The Editor's Mail

RACE PURISTS INJURIOUS
 Editor The Recorder.

Dear Sir:
 While the choice is a very broad one, all people are in one way or another declaring their faith that mankind is worthwhile. While some go to church they may so destroy harmony about them by vicious talk and ideas that they are really declaring their complete lack of belief in man or anything else. Other men finding complete negation too hard, have decided that while mankind on the whole is not so good, yet there are certain races that do have qualities in them that make their lives worthwhile. So the Germans have their theory of themselves. The Negro might well adapt this idea, too, but

it is really nonsense and injurious to anyone who holds it.

We see that the attitude of indifference toward other races will in time have a corrupting effect on the racial purists. They will deny themselves that fullness of life which would come from a broad belief in all humanity and good will toward others. Thus the Nazi have already shut themselves off from the rest of the world. Therefore the one-race-supremacy idea makes those who hold it so much the poorer in this life and this was created by their own inadequate and insufficient philosophy.

Yours truly,
 —ED. PETERSON.

Chicago.

He saw one of the men rise and flash a light. The shining beams lit the roof. A daylight brightness and he could see that one man held a gun. He would have to cross to other roofs before this man or others came upon him. They were suspicious and would comb every inch of space on top of these houses. On all fours, he scrambled to the next ledge and capture the man for even the cold, forget even that he had no strength left. From somewhere in him, out of the depths of flesh and blood and bone, he called up energy to run and dodge with but one impulse: he had to elude these men. He was crawling to the other ledge, over the snow, on his hands and knees, when he heard a yell.

"There he is!"

The three words made him stop; he had been listening for them all night and when they came he seemed to feel the sky crashing soundlessly about him. What was the use of running? Would it not be better to stop, stand up, and lift his hands high above his head in surrender? Hell, now! He continued to crawl.

"Stop, YOU!"

A shot rang out, whining past his head. He rose and ran to the ledge, leaped over; ran to the next ledge, leaped over it. He darted among the chimneys so that no one could see him long enough to shoot. He looked ahead and saw something huge and round and white looming up in the dark; a bulk rising up sheer from the snow

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